

**Patent Claims**

1. Method for electrically discharging printing material (2) to which toner has been applied, in particular for an electrophotographic printing machine, characterized in that the printing material (2) is discharged electrically in certain areas.
2. Method as in Claim 1, characterized in that, in the toner areas (4, 6, 8, 40, 60) of the printing material (2) displaying high toner density, a higher electrical discharge energy is applied than in areas (7) of the printing material (2) displaying low toner density.
3. Method as in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the electrical discharge energy is adjusted as a function of the toner density on the upper side and/or the underside of the printing material (2).
4. Method according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the printing material (2) is electrically discharged by a discharge device (10) in a direction transverse to the transport direction of the printing material (2).
5. Method according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the toner discharge device (10) electrically discharges the toner areas (4, 6, 8, 40, 60) displaying high toner densities and the areas (7) of the printing material (2) displaying low toner density by means of individually energizable discharge areas (11) of the discharge device (10).
6. Discharge device (10) for a printing machine, in particular for an electrophotographic printing machine, for electrically discharging printing

material (2), to which toner has been applied, characterized by a control device (15) for electrically discharging certain areas of the printing material (2).

7. Discharge device (10) for a printing machine in accordance with Claim 5, characterized by individually energizable discharge areas (11) on the discharge device (10).
8. Discharge device (10) for a printing machine in accordance with Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the discharge device (10) comprises a discharge unit for electrically discharging the printing material (2) with AC voltage and DC voltage.